

Abstract

The purpose of this diploma thesis is to analyze the parent-child relationship in selected novels by Anita Desai. The novels chosen for the analysis are *Cry, the Peacock*; *Clear Light of Day*; *Fire on the Mountain*; *Fasting, Feasting*.

The aim of the theoretical part is, firstly, to introduce Anita Desai and her style of writing, secondly, to lay the theoretical basis for further analysis of the attachment between children and their parents. In this part the author presents the Attachment theory, behavioural patterns and parenting styles (authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, uninvolved). The theoretical part is concluded by a portrait of Indian society and typical Indian family structure - the environment in which Desai's protagonists live. The practical part consists of thorough analysis of the selected novels. The analysis shows Desai's tendency to portray such parenting styles that instil insecurity in children. The results prove that these approaches to raising a child affect the personality development negatively. It was interesting to find out that gender bias influences not only the life-path and self-concept of the protagonists but also the quality of their relationship with their parents.